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BOROUGH OF SHAFTESBURY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1942.

This Report is prepared on the lines asked for by the Minister of Health in Circular 2773. In accordance with his directions most information usually contained in the Report is omitted and filed for future reference.

Noel F. Pearson M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health since January 1940 was called up for service in the Army on the 31st October, 1942. Gilbert Bodley Scott M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., was appointed Temporary Medical Officer of Health as from 2nd November, 1942.

Infectious Disease

Few cases of infectious disease occurred during the year. Of the four cases of Scarlet Fever notified two were admitted to Vine House Isolation Hospital, Sturminster Newton, administered by the North Dorset Joint Hospital Board (of which your Authority is a constituent member). There was no case of Diphtheria in the Borough during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year Immunisation against Diphtheria has been carried out in accordance with the Council's Scheme which makes immunisation free of cost, available to all children between the ages of one and fifteen years. Treatment is given at a monthly session held at the Out-patient department of the Westminster Memorial Hospital, and this arrangement is working very satisfactorily.

At the end of the year 82% of children of school age had received treatment, and 56% of children under school age.

Scabies

This is not a statutory notifiable disease and therefore it is difficult to estimate the prevalence of the condition in the area. The number of cases admitted to the Sick Bay during the year, however, give some indication of the incidence of the disease. From the North Dorset District 113 cases of Scabies were admitted during 1942, but of this number only two were from the Borough. More cases than this no doubt occurred, but school returns showed a considerable reduction in the incidence, especially towards the latter part of the year when a rise in the number of cases had been anticipated.

Meat Inspection

Slaughtering continued to be carried out at Sherborne, but post mortem inspection is not very satisfactory, and the matter is to be given further consideration.

Evacuation

The number of evacuees in the Borough was again reduced, but arrangements to cater for those remaining have been very satisfactory. The small Hostel at No. 1 Old Boundary Road has been available for any children presenting billeting difficulties, and

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ready reciprocal use by all the Authorities in North Dorset of the various Hostels and Nurseries within the several districts has again been achieved by the ready goodwill and mutual assistance of the Chief Billeting Officers.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and help afforded to me by your Council and Officers.

G. B. SCOTT,

Temporary Medical Officer
of Health.

18th June, 1943.